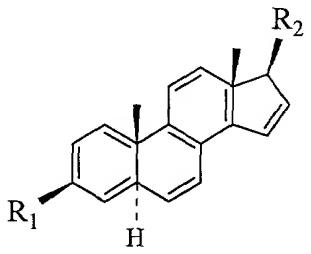
We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a bacterial infection in a mammal which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula



wherein :

R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkanoyl or Y-substituted alkanoyl

wherein Y is alkyl, aryl or halo; and

R_2 is amide, or X-substituted amide wherein X is a peptide or an amino acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt and/or hydrate thereof, or where applicable, a geometric or optical isomer or racemic mixture thereof.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein R_1 is alkanoyl and R_2 is X-substituted amide wherein X is an amino acid residue.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein R_1 is acetyl and R_2 is prolyl.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein said compound has the formula: 3β-acetoxy-17β-(L-prolyl)amino-5α-androstane.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 in a form suitable for topical administration.

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5 wherein said carrier is selected from the group comprising lotion, salve, ointment, cream or oil.

8. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 comprising in addition a second anti-microbial agent.

9. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5 comprising in addition means for controlling the pH of said composition.

10. A method of treating a gram positive bacterial infection in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an antimicrobial-effective amount of a compound of claim 5.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein said antimicrobial-effective amount is between about 25 milligram to about 1gram per kilogram body weight of said mammal treated.

12. A method of inhibiting the growth of gram positive bacteria comprising contacting said bacteria with a compound of Claim 1.

13. The method of Claim 10 wherein said gram-positive bacteria are selected from the group comprising penicillin-resistant, methicillin-resistant and vancomycin resistant gram-positive bacteria.

14. The method of Claim 10 wherein said compound is administered to said mammal by topical means.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said means is selected from the group comprising lotion, oil, emulsion and creme.

16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said means comprises a surface-adhering dressing impregnated with said compound.